

Response

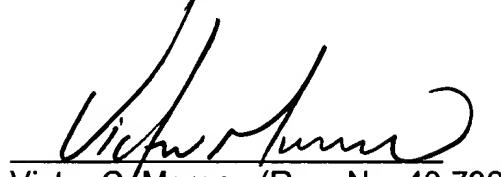
The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant and the undersigned attorney appreciate the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview on 09/17/2004. The claims have been amended as discussed in the interview. It was agreed that the amendments, in principal, appeared to overcome the art of record. Although the examiner reserved the right to re-review the art of record and supplement the prior art search, applicant believes the claims should be in a condition for allowance.

While Applicant has noted some of the significant differences between the pending claims and the cited references during the interview, it should be noted that other claimed features are not taught or suggested in the cited references. Furthermore, the dependent claims add other limitations that further distinguish over the cited references. Applicant reserves all rights and arguments with respect to those claimed features not expressly discussed heretofore.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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The undersigned certifies that this correspondence was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail and addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450," on this 20 day of Sept., 2004.

